

The FLYER

Thursday, February 18, 2021 / Student-run newspaper

NEWS:
COVID-19 Vaccine
page 2

EDITORIAL:
Needing a better
graduation experience
page 4

GULL LIFE:
Dating during COVID-19
page 10

SPORTS:
A look inside SGSN
page 13

ABOUT

The Flyer is Salisbury University's student newspaper-composed by students for students. The organization was established in 1973 to keep to SU community informed and entertained.

Issues are published monthly throughout the regular school year and prints are printed by Delaware Printing Company of Dover, DE. A total of 800 copies are distributed on campus per circulation.

The Flyer strives for accuracy and corrects its errors immediately. If you believe a factual error has been printed, feel free to contact the staff. Thank you.

NEWS

SU among few planning in-person events for commencement

By Jakob Todd / News Editor

As colleges across the country continue wrestling over how to celebrate commencement, Salisbury University is hoping to preserve a little normality for its spring graduates.

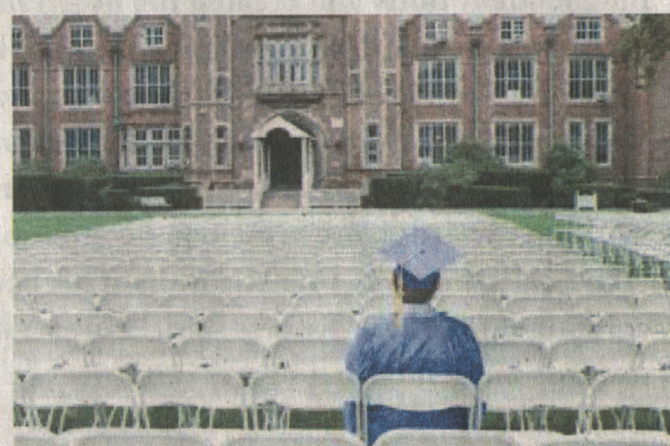
SU is creating a proposal to offer spring graduates in-person elements for their commencement celebration in addition to a new style of the virtual graduation ceremony experienced by the winter's graduating class, according to Provost Dr. Karen Olmstead and Provost Project Manager Kim Meyer.

Spring graduates would be able to select individual time slots to bring two guests to Sea Gull Stadium, where a commencement stage will be assembled, following virtual commencement ceremonies. Meyer said the proposal would provide graduates with an opportunity to walk across the stage and get photographed in regalia both on-stage and across campus without requiring any chairs, nor having surfaces that need to be cleaned after use. Family members would also be offered the chance to hood graduates to avoid having faculty or staff members break social distancing protocols.

The Sea Gull Stadium location would also mark the first-ever outdoor commencement event for SU, as all graduations in prior years have taken place in the Wicomico Civic Center.

The virtual segment of the proposal would include several more personalized commencement ceremonies, with one for each academic school, rather than announcing the names of the entire graduating class in a single setting.

Meyer believes ceremonies for each school would provide a "unique flavor" with student and faculty speakers from each school being able to address their own program's graduates.



The university is looking to change the fully virtual sendoff given to the fall semester's graduates that took place in December. Featured image courtesy of BestColleges.

Each online "celebration" would still include similar elements, such as messages from SU's president, provost and others. The initiative to explore alternatives came after SU received feedback from graduates on SU's fully virtual winter commencement ceremony. Meanwhile, fellow University System of Maryland schools have all been hesitant to explore in-person options, Meyer said.

Olmstead did call the potential in-person activities "very tentative" and that the office is still in the "very early planning" stage.

SU President Charles Wight expressed similar hesitation during the university's recent campus-wide virtual town hall.

"If we are able to see the positivity rates in our county and in our state come down sufficiently during spring semester, then we are open to the possibility of having some in-person components to the commencement activities," Wight said.

"But, for right now, most of our planning is around virtual activities."

Olmstead said the final decision on whether to proceed with in-person aspects will be made by the president's cabinet, which includes representation from shared governance groups such as the university's Student Government Association, Graduate Student Council, Staff Senate and Faculty Senate, in ac-

Diversity training released for SU

By Jakob Todd / News Editor

Salisbury University has released its new mandatory online diversity training program for the campus community following turbulent months of racially charged incidents across campus.

The training, titled "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for Students," is broken into two sections, with the first an estimated 40-minute training course and the

second a short survey.

Every SU student must complete the training by the March 15 deadline, according to the university's training email sent to the campus community.

The training for the university's faculty is expected to include more modules for teaching in a diverse and inclusive environment in addition to the sections taken by students.

"We [at SU] believe in the importance of creating a safe and healthy environment for all of our community members," read the preview to the courses. "These trainings, in addition to being highly interactive and engaging, are based in research around the best practices for healthy communities."

Dorien Rogers, the director of diversity and inclusion for the university's Student Government Association, took part in

the training's pilot trial before the program was released to the rest of the campus community.

Rogers and the rest of the SGA's executive board provided feedback after the pre-trial demo to SU's Chief Diversity Officer Joan Williams, who assisted in developing the training in partnership with third-party vendor EVERFI. Rogers hopes the training helps to eliminate the mindset that individuals must be rewarded for displaying compassion and being inclusive.

"Although you may not be a person of color or have a disability [and] you may not understand how [a marginalized] person is feeling, you can still empathize with that person, and that's what I want to see out of this training," Rogers said.

The new diversity training program comes in the aftermath of a racial reckoning both across the nation as well as at SU, with the university facing repeated attacks of racially charged vandalism over the last 18 months.

An inferred noose was also found on campus grounds in September, sparking outrage across the campus community until a campus police-led investigation found the object to be a bird feeder support infrastructure installed by the SU Biology Department.

In an attempt to prevent future racially charged attacks and improve campus diversity, SU's President's Office made the Office of Diversity and Inclusion its own independent body and created the position of chief diversity officer, which would eventually be filled by Joan Williams. A special task force was also established to aid in developing initiatives for the office to improve campus diversity and support. Rogers said the growing demand across campus for diversity training has been building steadily through recent months and encourages the university to continue working towards a more inclusive community.

"If we call ourselves an institution of higher learning [at SU], empathy is a large component of that," Rogers said. "Hopefully this training can serve as a first step towards implementing bigger initiatives."

More SU community members eligible for COVID-19 vaccine

By Jakob Todd / News Editor

More Salisbury University Sea Gulls may now be eligible to receive the coronavirus vaccine as Gov. Larry Hogan moved Maryland into Phase 1C of the state's vaccination distribution efforts.

The move expanded the vaccine-eligible population at SU to include individuals with essential functions in facility or campus operations — such as facilities staff, food-service staff and housing staff — as well as faculty or staff who provide essential in-person learning that cannot be performed remotely, according to the Maryland Department of Health.

The university is in the process of contacting students, faculty and staff who are now eligible to receive the vaccine via email to indicate interest in being vaccinated and for how to sign up for a vaccination, per a recent Stay Informed email. SU has learned, however, that vaccines for individuals in the Phase 1C priority group are extremely limited in the area due to national supply shortages, the email continued.

Members of the campus community who have already received the vaccine will still be required to follow all the university's coronavirus prevention and testing policies, including the monthly COVID-19 testing requirement, according to the email. SU does not currently require campus community members to receive the vaccine.

Phase 1C also extends eligibility to more essential frontline workers not previously covered in Phase 1, as well as all Marylanders at least 65 years old, per the Maryland Department of Health.

While more than 1.5 million Marylanders are now eligible to receive the coronavirus vaccine, the Maryland Department of Health warns that the federal government is sending just 10,000 doses per day for the department to administer.



The coronavirus vaccine is steadily making its way to the SU campus as the state's distribution plan continues to advance into its next phases (Image courtesy of Rainmaker.)

Phase 2 of the state's vaccination plan will include adults 16-64 years old with underlying medical conditions, such as heart disease or kidney disease, and are therefore at a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Much of the campus community, however, will not be eligible for vaccination until Phase 3, the final stretch of the state's distribution plan, which extends to the general population.

SU is working with regional partners such as Tidal Health and the Wicomico County Health Department on its vaccination plans, said Director of Student Health Services Vicki Lentz.

"They are aware that there is a desire for faculty, staff and students to get vaccinated," Lentz said.

SU President Charles Wight also expressed the uncertainty of the situation, urging the campus community to be patient with the vaccine rollout.

"We are getting as much information as we can in a timely way, and we will keep

Continued on page 3

WANT TO WRITE FOR NEWS?
CONTACT JAKOB TODD
FOR INFORMATION
jtodd7@gulls.salisbury.edu

Salisbury's Commencement continued...from page 1



The new online training aims to unite the SU community nearly a year after the campus grappled with several incidents of racially charged vandalism (Image courtesy of Best-Colleges.)

cordance with advice from the campus health committee.

"We'll have to take into account the infection rate in the wider area, not just the SU campus, where we're doing so beautifully ... because people from around the state potentially would be coming if we allowed two guests per graduate," Olmstead said.

Olmstead said the key focuses of COVID-19 prevention measures would be protecting graduates' nonlocal family members, touchless mandates — such as no hugging or handshaking — and social distancing.

Though mask-wearing would be enforced while around others, there is a goal for each graduate to have an opportunity to be distanced far enough on stage to have a mask-free photo.

Both Meyer and Olmstead gave their reasons for why they believe in-person commencement activities deserve being explored.

"It's such a special day ... families are so excited, and our graduates are so excited, [so] if we can help to [give] a little bit of that feeling after such a difficult year, it would be lovely," Meyer said.

"Particularly for students whose families haven't traditionally gone to college, if you're the first in your family to graduate from college, it is a huge deal ... degree attainment is so tied to social mobility and just sheer accomplishment in grit, that it's a really emotional moment," Olmstead said.

Olmstead said 2020 SU graduates should not expect to be welcomed back for their promised in-person commencement ceremony this time around, however.

"We'd really like to wait and invite them back for a really normal walk across stage and [when] they're the VIPs on the podium," Olmstead said. "Just because, what we're planning now, it's not in-person commencement ... it's your photo-op."

All in-person activities would be live-streamed on the SU website, as well as Facebook and YouTube, which were used for December's virtual commencement ceremony.

While the university's academic calendar currently lists May 14 as the tentative

date for spring graduation, Olmstead said the expanded proposal would likely require events to run from May 14 through the weekend until May 16.

Vaccine continued... from page 2

[the campus] as informed as we possibly can as decisions are made about the availability and scheduling of vaccines," Wight said.

Wight has echoed the Center for Disease Control's recommendations of mask-wearing, social distancing and prac-

ticing good hand hygiene as the most effective methods to prevent the spread of COVID-19 until vaccinations are made more widely available.

While vaccinations are unlikely to be administered on SU's campus, vaccines began being administered in grocery store

pharmacies statewide Monday, including three Wal-Mart locations in Wicomico County, according to the state's new vaccination online portal.

The portal also lists the Wicomico County Health Department as a vaccine distribution site.

Salisbury returns for Round 2 against COVID-19

By Jakob Todd / News Editor

More Salisbury University Sea Gulls may now be eligible to receive the coronavirus vaccine as Gov. Larry Hogan moved Maryland into Phase 1C of the state's vaccination distribution efforts.

The move expanded the vaccine-eligible population at SU to include individuals with essential functions in facility or campus operations — such as facilities staff, food-service staff and housing staff — as well as faculty or staff who provide essential in-person learning that cannot be performed remotely, according to the Maryland Department of Health.

The university is in the process of contacting students, faculty and staff who are now eligible to receive the vaccine via email to indicate interest in being vaccinated and for how to sign up for a vaccination, per a recent Stay Informed email. SU has learned, however, that vaccines for individuals in the Phase 1C priority group are extremely limited in the area due to national supply shortages, the email continued.

Members of the campus community who have already received the vaccine will still be required to follow all the university's coronavirus prevention and testing policies, including the monthly COVID-19 testing requirement, according to the email. SU does not currently require campus community members to receive the vaccine.

Phase 1C also extends eligibility to more essential frontline workers not previously covered in Phase 1, as well as all Marylanders at least 65 years old, per the Maryland Department of Health.

While more than 1.5 million Marylanders are now eligible to receive the coronavirus vaccine, the Maryland Department of Health warns that the federal government is sending just 10,000 doses per day for the department to administer. Phase 2 of the state's vaccination plan will include adults 16-64 years old with underlying medical conditions, such as heart disease or kidney disease, and are therefore at a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Much of the campus community, however, will not be eligible for vaccination until Phase 3, the final stretch of the state's distribution plan, which extends to the



SU welcomed students back to campus as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt colleges across the nation (Image courtesy of Salisbury University Facebook page.)

general population.

SU is working with regional partners such as Tidal Health and the Wicomico County Health Department on its vaccination plans, said Director of Student Health Services Vicki Lentz.

"They are aware that there is a desire for faculty, staff and students to get vaccinated," Lentz said.

SU President Charles Wight also expressed the uncertainty of the situation, urging the campus community to be patient with the vaccine rollout.

"We are getting as much information as we can in a timely way, and we will keep [the campus] as informed as we possibly can as decisions are made about the availability and scheduling of vaccines," Wight said.

Wight has echoed the Center for Disease Control's recommendations of mask-wearing, social distancing and practicing good hand hygiene as the most effective methods to prevent the spread of COVID-19 until vaccinations are made more widely available.

While vaccinations are unlikely to be administered on SU's campus, vaccines began being administered in grocery store pharmacies statewide Monday, including three Wal-Mart locations in Wicomico County, according to the state's new vaccination online portal.

The portal also lists the Wicomico County Health Department as a vaccine distribution site.

SU adds rapid COVID-19 tests

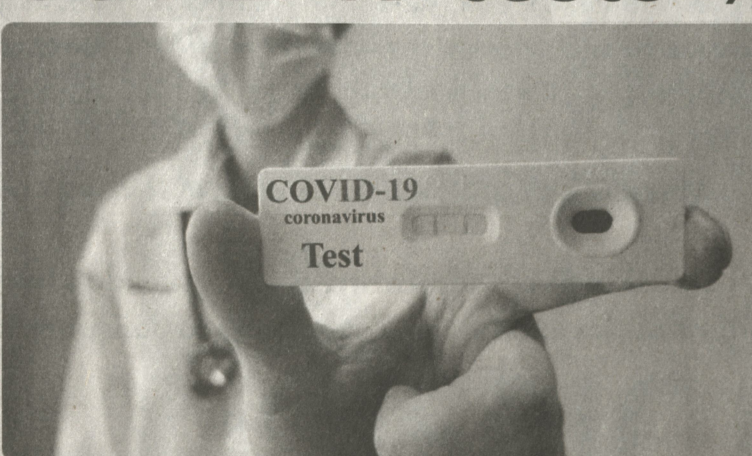
By Jakob Todd / News Editor

Salisbury University will now be offering rapid antigen coronavirus testing for the spring semester in addition to its Polymerase Chain Reaction tests from the fall, according to Director of Student Health Services Vicki Lentz.

Though the rapid tests will only be used initially for student move-in and when directly ordered by a student health or campus health nurse practitioner, Lentz said the university will increase rapid testing availability as the semester progresses.

The rapid tests, which detect traces of proteins found in the virus, offer a much quicker turnaround time than PCR tests, with results potentially available as soon as 15 minutes after being administered, according to Memorial Healthcare. If an individual tests positive for COVID-19 with a rapid test, a PCR test will then be conducted to confirm those results, Lentz said.

SU President Charles Wight recently said that all university-administered coronavirus testing will continue to be performed in the Great Hall of Holloway Hall throughout the spring semester. Wight also relayed that faculty members



Salisbury is planning to increase its coronavirus testing capacity from the fall semester for the campus community (Image courtesy of News Medical.)

will not be required to make exemptions or accommodations on attendance or assignment deadlines for students who fall out of clearance status with the monthly COVID-19 testing requirement and lose access to SU facilities. More than half of all spring classes are being conducted using in-person or hybrid formats, a slight uptick from the fall semester.

SU identified 24 cases of the virus during the first week of classes, leaving the campus with less than a 1% positivity rate to begin the spring semester, per the university's COVID-19 dashboard.

Wight praised the campus' continued virus-mitigation efforts during his first

COVID-19 briefing of the semester. "[The low number of cases are] a reflection of the commitment that all of us have made to keep each other safe," Wight said.

Chief of Staff Eli Modlin announced the university is working on a plan to increase its testing frequency for the campus community — contingent upon approval from the University System of Maryland — during the university's first open

town hall of the semester Feb. 7. Modlin said university members who participate in "higher risk activities" may soon be required to be tested as frequently as twice per week, such as student athletes.

SU is also designing a new coronavirus testing interface to allow campus community members to schedule all future COVID-19 testing dates at once, Modlin said.

For more information on SU's testing protocols or to view the latest university COVID-19 test results, visit <https://www.salisbury.edu/coronavirus/testing-info.aspx>.

Editorial

SU needs a better graduation experience during the pandemic

By Jacob Beaver / Editorial Editor



Dr. Charles Wight addressing graduates during 2020's online commencement ceremonies (Image courtesy of Salisbury University Press Relations.)

The experience of graduating is something college students around the world look forward to. It is a pivotal moment in the modern education experience serving as a stepping-stone towards future educational goals or a final accomplishment before entering a long-awaited career. The crowds and thunderous applause awaiting the spring and fall classes of 2020 for Salisbury University were interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Spring's commencement ceremonies were postponed until December in hopes of the virus subsiding to allow for a conventional ceremony at the Civic Center. Large events became impossible as the pandemic continued into the winter of 2020. Colleges across the United States adapted their ceremonies in various ways throughout the year.

According to The Verge, institutions held virtual alternatives and encouraged students to make their own unique celebration video clips. These would be presented during the live-streamed graduation in alphabetical order, mimicking the presentation of degrees for each individual student. Even TikTok challenges found their way alongside speeches from deans and school presidents at these ceremonies. While not nearly as emotional or ceremonial as previous graduations, those involved in these virtual commencements had a moment of recognition before embarking on life's next journey. However, what Salisbury University offered students in December 2020 fell short in one key area. Following a virtual compilation of recorded speeches from administration and Governor Larry Hogan, commencement viewers were directed to a link that honored graduates with a list of personalized slides on SU's commencement website. This attempt failed to provide students a singular moment of recognition. A pre-recorded message to thank loved ones could better help students feel a sense of pride. There is no sense of communal accomplishment in the compilation of student names on a roster. Without a crowd of encouragement to walk in front of proudly, these graduates become another name on a list. There must be sincere representation for all who finish their journey at Salisbury University. My disappointment stems not only from its "presentation" of graduates, but also that these ceremonies were delayed from their scheduled spring date. There was ample time since spring to allow for the planning of a more substantial experience for graduates, and yet, what was presented was subpar. The introduction of vaccines provides hope, but there is still uncertainty. On Jan. 25, Maryland entered Phase 1C of the state's vaccination distribution plan, as announced by Governor Larry Hogan. Those at SU now eligible to receive the vaccine include essential workers such as food service and housing staff. However, it is unknown when Phase 2 will begin. If it were to be enacted during the Spring 2021 Semester, it would only include those on SU's campus aged 16-64 who are at an increased risk of COVID-19. Despite promises of accelerated vaccine distribution, the chances of large gathering events including graduation are looking slim. With uncertainty still on the horizon, I am asking SU's administration to provide a better experience for the class of 2021. Students who have dedicated their academic abilities and financial resources to Salisbury University deserve more than a website listing.



Graphics courtesy of Michael Cotterino.

SU must be vigilant against political extremism

By Jacob Beaver / Editorial Editor

On Jan. 6, supporters of Former President Donald Trump stormed the Capitol building in Washington D.C. According to the New York Times, the insurrection resulted in the death of five people. Protests throughout the nation's capital that day aimed to disrupt a vote to certify the election of Joe Biden as the 46th president of the United States.

2020 was no stranger to violence in the name of injustice. However, it is the element of truth that sets the Capitol riot apart from last year's racial protests. The Black Lives Matter uprisings served as an outcry for voices unheard by the justice system over decades of law enforcement discrimination and abuse in Black communities.

However, the violent raid of Congress's chambers attempted to interrupt the democratic process over claims of election fraud with no factual basis according to the New York Times.

One daunting question haunts the minds of Americans: when will it happen again? In this unstable political atmosphere, how will our school balance the demands of justice and peace?

According to Salisbury University's Code of Community Standards, "students are prohibited from engaging in behavior that disrupts or interferes with the orderly functioning of the University." While the code also states that these standards are to be applied without regard towards specific "perspectives or positions," is this a sustainable policy?

During the Trump presidency, a dangerous mixture of extremist beliefs combined with conspiracy theories, led to the formation of QAnon. This loose ideology among conservatives believed a judgment day at the hands of the president would erase corruption from the federal government.

According to USA Today, a multitude of QAnon theories have been debunked. Despite a lack of evidence, these beliefs cultivated the desperation felt by those storming the Capitol.

Considering the events of Jan. 6, the Code of Community Standards should be applied with regard towards specific perspectives and positions when extremism is involved.

Following the Capitol riot, various social media companies took swift action. Twitter, Reddit and others banned Trump from their platforms. Some even shut down entire communities oriented towards the discussion of extremist conservative ideologies such as QAnon.

Is Salisbury University doing its part to prevent violence based on conspiracies, extremism and lies from sparking on campus? If the worst happens, will SU hold instigators accountable?

Democrat club president Fathima Rifkey



Image courtesy of Jacob Beaver.

said her club has "not discussed any measures to prevent violence omitting from political riots." Instead, she believes action should be taken by the Student Government Association or the administration. The Republican club has not responded to The Flyer's inquiries. While student organizations have yet to take action, Salisbury University's police department has been prepared since the day of the insurrection.

Chief Edwin Lashley of SU's Police Department was contacted regarding the school's security response to suspicious online activity related to political violence.

The response towards suspicious activity includes a gathering of intelligence from various agencies. These include the US Department of Homeland Security, MD

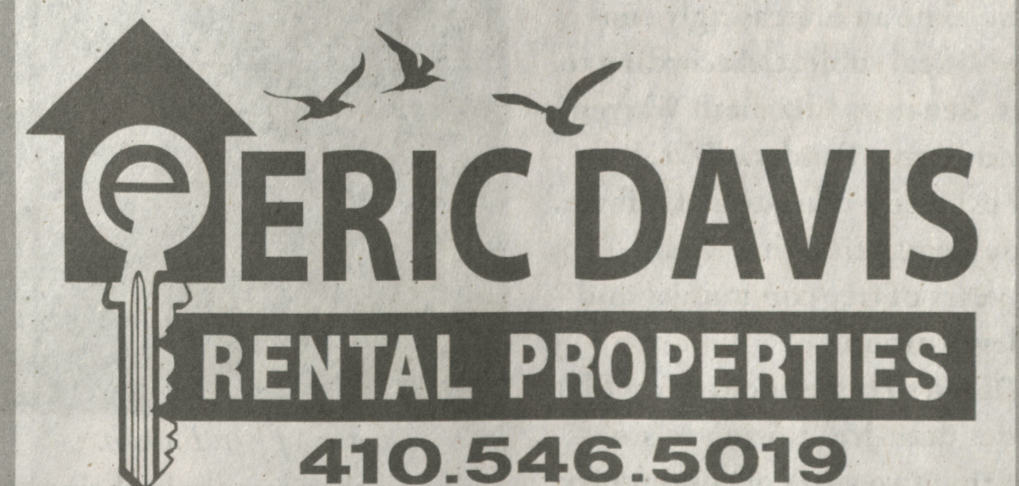
State Police and Eastern Shore Criminal Intelligence System. Additionally, the school's intelligence officer examines information gathered from tips, social media and other sources.

The SU Police Department was also granted conditional access to specific information regarding the inauguration of President Biden.

Students should be involved in activism at SU. When injustice rises, the voices of those who suffer must rise to meet it. Change is manifested by disruption of the status quo when the truth is ignored. However, the university must take steps to prevent violence from those who wish to sabotage peace without the basis of truth on their side.

SPECIALIZING IN STUDENT HOUSING

• • • • SINGLE FAMILY HOMES • • • •
& TOWNHOUSES AVAILABLE



• • • • • LOCATED • • • • •

1411-A SOUTH SALISBURY BOULEVARD
SALISBURY, MARYLAND 21801

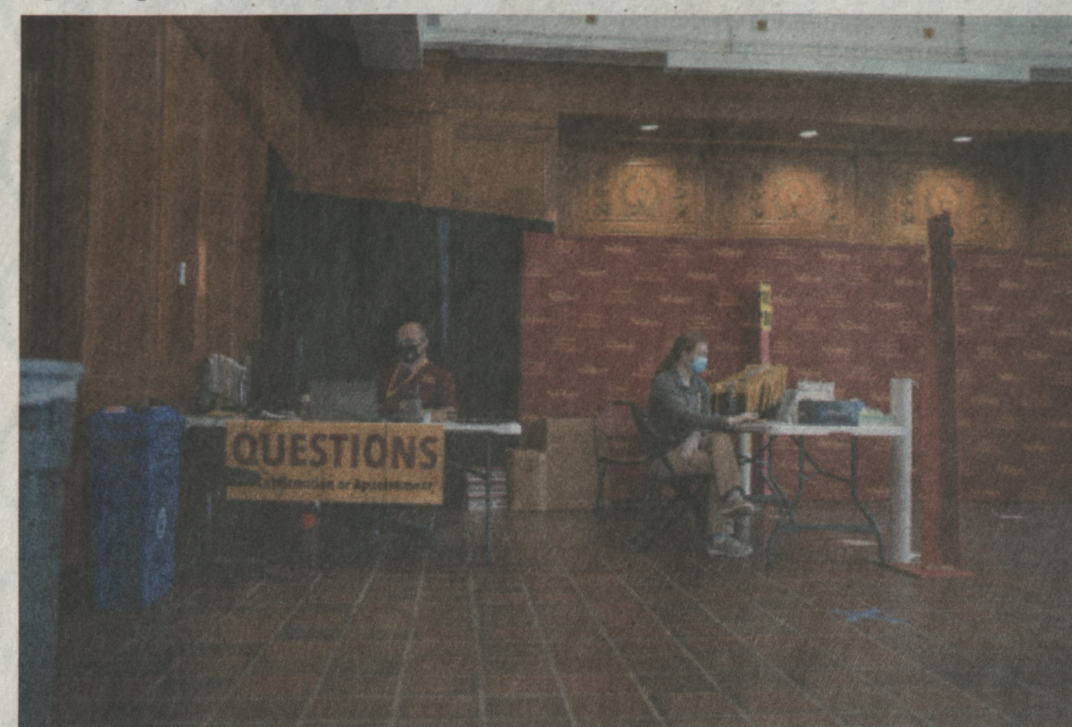
(On the corner of RT 13 & Milford)

WWW.ERICDAVISONLINE.COM

PROPERTY MANAGER - MARY ANNE JOHNSON

Should SU require the COVID-19 vaccine?

By Haylee Olley / Staff Writer



SU's COVID-19 testing center at Holloway Hall (Image courtesy of Ben Lausch.)

keeping the virus contained."

Junior Ellie Kessler does not believe students "should be forced to put something into [their] body if [they] are apprehensive or do not agree with it." She also noted how "so many people right now are weary of the vaccine because the pandemic has [become] political."

According to the SU COVID-19 vaccination webpage, the university is not currently requiring students or staff to receive the vaccine. There is still time for students to read, learn, listen and educate themselves about the vaccine to make an informative decision.

There are many who want to be vaccinated in hopes of a quick return to normal life. Others are still afraid of the unknown elements of the vaccine.

According to The Morning Call, Penn State University has already offered waiver forms for students with religious, medical or philosophical objections. If the vaccination becomes a requirement for SU, there should be a similar waiver to allow for the freedom to choose.

Maryland will continue to move through the distribution phases, allowing more SU students and staff members to become eligible for the treatment.

Other colleges around the country have been following this initiative by providing information and resources to students and staff. When there are more than enough vaccines, seagulls can make their own choice. However, the choice to receive a vaccine is a personal one that should not be decided by school administration.

On Jan. 28, Governor Larry Hogan moved Maryland into Phase 1C for vaccinations against COVID-19. A portion of SU students is now eligible to receive the vaccine.

However, a question now arises from this progress: Should SU require the vaccine for students to attend classes in-person and be present on-campus?

According to the MD Department of Health, the vaccine will be delivered to "those with essential functions related to campus operations (including, but not limited to, facilities, food service and housing staff) and faculty and staff who provide essential in-person learning that cannot be delivered remotely."

Senior Brianna Johnson said that "COVID-19 vaccinations should be a personal choice." Despite not agreeing with mandatory vaccinations, Brianna does think the required "COVID-19 test on campus [is] acceptable for

How Joe Biden's presidency could affect SU students

By Jacob Beaver / Editorial Editor

President Joe Biden was inaugurated as the 46th president on Jan. 20. How could the new commander-in-chief's goals and policies affect SU?

Student loans and their heavy weight of debt have become an increasingly controversial political subject. According to NBC News, Senators Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass. and Bernie Sanders, I-Vt. have pushed for extensive educational reform. This includes legislation that would allow four years of free community and public college tuition.

However, Biden's Higher Education Plan only provides debt-free tuition to students attending two years of community college or high-quality training programs.

Young undocumented immigrants, known as DREAMers, would be eligible for a free two-year education and other financial aid.

Varying degrees of forgiveness in outstanding student debt would be implemented. Those who have responsibly paid back their debt for 20 years. Workers in national or community service would receive \$10,000 in student debt relief annually for up to five years for



Image courtesy of Ben Lausch.

each year they remain in their position. Debt payments would also be adjusted based on income. Those who make \$25,000 or less would not be expected to pay back the government or accrue interest.

While some actions would benefit a portion of students based on their immigrant or income status, this is not enough. SU is not a community college, and therefore tuition would not be reduced.

Seniors may not be worrying about next year's tuition, but they have their own

daunting challenge — entering their careers during a pandemic.

According to CNBC, Biden's American Rescue Plan includes a host of economic reformations. Federal per-week unemployment would be raised to \$400. Federal minimum wage would increase to \$15 per hour. Eviction and foreclosure moratoriums would be extended to the end of September.

\$170 billion would be granted to K-12 schools and higher education, including SU. \$50 billion would be dedicated towards COVID-19 testing.

Continued on page 7

How Joe Biden's presidency could affect SU students continued... from page 6

SU graduates should be hopeful about the president's short-term policies. The economy's long-term health is another story. According to Bloomberg, Biden's planned aid totals \$1.9 trillion and would be the second-largest amount of federal economic aid in US history. These policies would help stabilize students fresh out of SU and looking to start their career during the pandemic.

However, experts warn the amount of spending caused by the aid influx could lead to inflation. Should Biden's policies manifest themselves through legislation, the SU's class of 2021 would have their starting salaries meet rising prices.

While financial burdens loom, there are more urgent matters which our students wrestle with.

SU has been no stranger to racial inequality. Various threats towards Black students and faculty appeared on school walls during the bigotry-fueled administration of former President Donald Trump.

Biden's legacy must be one that cultivates an atmosphere of equality and justice. He cannot ignore the problematic platform his predecessor provided towards white supremacists and other hate organizations.

According to CNBC, President Biden signed a series of executive orders to tackle racial inequality on Jan. 26. The Department of Housing and Urban Development will be examining the Trump administration's regulatory actions that undermined housing policies and laws that protected tenants. Reforms will occur accordingly following the examination.

The Department of Justice has been directed to partner with Asian American and Pacific Islanders to prevent hate crimes and harassment against them.

Biden appears to be taking action to move the nation away from policies and actions that hurt America's minority populations. Once again, this is not enough.

Housing policies and regulations for off-campus facilities could be affected, depending on the specific details of Biden's plans. However, there has yet to be any word on police reform. SU students are in the middle of an urban environment with a constant police presence.

For the safety of SU students, Biden should heavily consider executive actions that demilitarize, analyze and reform the way police operate in this country.

Trump's presidencies abandoned college students across the country. However, restoring the status quo is not the only task ahead. The SU experience would greatly

benefit from Biden taking the progressive high road and creating a new standard for Americans to follow.

**Want to write for
Editorial? Contact Jacob
Beaver**
jbeaver2@gulls.salisbury.edu

Insley Rentals

Students Welcome!
2, 3, & 4 Bedroom Houses
Walk or Bike to Campus!

Office 207-A Milford St.
Across from University Park
Phone: (410) 742-8121
Email: info@insleyrentals.com
insleyrentals.com

follow us on
twitter
Find us on
Facebook

Free to good home!

2 Yorkshire puppies
and English bulldog
puppies for
adoption. If
interested,
contact
cm9105835@gmail.com



SafeRide cancelled for Spring 2021

By Stephanie Rivera /
Gull Life Editor

If you are one of the students who would regularly call SafeRide on the weekend, unfortunately they have made the official call to not operate for this upcoming semester. Although some can find this disappointing, the organization made the call to ensure the safety of the student population and to limit the spread of COVID-19 to the best of their ability. "We just want the community to know that we really heavily debated whether we were going to operate ... we discussed with many different administrators, advisors and staff, to attempt to make the most effective decision," Cochair of Operations and Finance Gabriela Torres explained on the situation. A key factor that influenced their decision to shut down operations was the attempts by the Salisbury administration to gain detailed information on students who utilized the services; this information would include a student's gull card, phone number and location of destination for tracking purposes. "One of the most important aspects of SafeRide is keeping our patrons anonymous ... people use SafeRide because they feel safe that they won't get into trouble and we didn't want to give people the insecurity that we would give their information to the university," Torres continued. In addition to the incorporation of tracking methods, the administration was striving to solely allow two students to occupy a van throughout their operation. As each van can hold 15 students each, it did not seem profitable or viable to operate in such a fashion. Furthermore, using the vehicles in this fashion would prove to be

environmentally degrading, due to the large size of the vehicles and minimal number of passengers. Although this development is disappointing to the student body, the SafeRide organization is working in conjunction with the administration to have the services back in full operation by the Fall Semester 2021. The organization wants to ensure the student body that they are still operating behind the scenes to give back to the campus community. "We are not taking this as an off-time and not doing anything to benefit SafeRide, but we're taking this time (to restructure). It is really important to us that when we can operate, we can reintegrate as smoothly as possible," Director of Personnel and Cochair of Operations and Finance Chloe Birch commented. The organization is utilizing this time to reconstruct the power relations among the organization; they are utilizing a hybrid model of direct power structure and a presidential assignment of power. This individual will allow for the assignment of a liaison between the organization itself and the SU administrators working with the organization.



Image courtesy of SU SafeRide Facebook page.



Image courtesy of SU SafeRide Facebook page

"This model will ultimately create more efficiency within SafeRide ... it will allow us to work at a greater capacity and accomplish more within the organization," SafeRide's General Assistant Garrett Birsá added.

In addition to the restructuring of their internal operation, SafeRide is working with the Center for Student Involvement & Leadership to organize a drug safety and awareness event within the next upcoming month.

SafeRide will still be active on campus as in years past through their participation within the upcoming Rely for Life; they will also be holding their annual 5K run that is projected to occur at the end of the semester in May.

Although SafeRide will not be operating this spring, there is still a plethora of other options to accessing forms of transportation when you are under the influence. "Please be safe and be wise. There are other resources besides SafeRide, so

please do not drive under any form of intoxication," Director of Employee Relations and Cochair of Operations and Finance Mia Coyle advocated.

No matter the distance, driving under forms of intoxication is dangerous to yourself and everyone else on the road. Take an Uber or call a taxi, because there is no excuse for driving under the influence. If you do choose to go out, do so with safety, wear your mask and wash your hands regularly and often.

audible collective sigh of relief when SU announced they were opening their doors for the fall of 2020. Lee was again met with mixed feelings. This time between feeling ecstatic to get out of his house and counting the days until he could return to SU; Lee's stressed culminated through worry over the shut down and the status of his fellow constituents.

"The fact that I was dealing with them (stresses) in a global pandemic without really a good foundation. I can't be the only one who's dealing with that" Lee said. "So that made me worry quite a bit in terms of like how everyone is dealing

Continued on page 9

COVID-19 Revamps Salisbury Student services

By Angel Kontra /
Staff Writer

The world changed for Salisbury University students in March of 2020. The usual bustling, lively campus cleared and was desolate after the alert was broadcast through the university emergency system. Thomas Lee, then a freshman at SU, was among the students living on-campus that were sent home for what would be the rest of the spring semester. The perks of going home were matched with the seriousness of the pandemic. "It was very mixed reactions of 'it's great that we're going home,' but it's also like

we have no certainty of what the future may hold," Lee said. Remote learning consisting of computer screens, zoom calls and class in pajamas became the "new normal." Suddenly, students getting acclimated to the independent life away from home were forced back into the close quarters of their childhood homes. "I was going through a real rough patch in that time because I was being forced into the same household 24/7 with people who I couldn't resonate with as much," Lee said. "So that caused a lot of friction and problems." After forging through the trying spring semester and the oddities of a socially distanced summer, there was an almost

COVID-19 Revamps Salisbury Student services...

from page 8

with the state the world's going to be in, in terms of SU and the future." Lee is one of the many students dealing with anxiety as the hybrid semester commences. At Salisbury University, supportive student resources are mobilizing to continue working amid pandemic restrictions.

Behind the door of the counseling center lies a long hallway filled with the occupied offices of counselors and rooms available for reservation. Posters advertising various support groups and signs reminding students of the new coronavirus protocols hang outside the reception at the end of the corridor.

Sabrina Sahle is one of the center's counselors providing hybrid therapy to students. She said no clients are being seen in person, but those who come seeking crisis intervention in-person are sent to separate rooms where they speak with counselors through Zoom.

Various support groups tailored to students of differing backgrounds and interests such as "Sister Circle," "BeYOU" and "Coping with COVID," and new six-week mindful meditation sessions are available as well.

"It is mostly things that students need basically for what is going on right now currently in terms of general coping strategies and to kind of supplement their therapy sessions that we provide," Sahle said. "So, between those sessions they can work on them and get the support that they need."

Though the center has switched to a six-session short-term model of treatment, treating students within a span of six scheduled sessions; the flexibility based on students' needs.

"If they met their goals and they're satisfied that will give us that satisfaction as well," Sahle said.

Lee said that he remembers the intake questions being unpleasant to answer and that he felt uneasy in session after recalling the confidentiality policy. He said his overall experience was mediocre.

Alternative supportive resources remain available to students, including Multicultural Student Services and the Disability Resource Center.

Down the hall to the left of Blackwell Halls' lobby is the newly re-located Multicultural Student Services.

Multicultural Student Services is considerably different from the counseling center. Its program highlights diversity

and inclusion of cultures and ethnicities, sexual orientations and genders, along with support for students Program Coordinator Richard Potter said.

It is a "home away from home for students of color of campus," Potter said. Multicultural Student Services works with the multicultural student organizations at SU, as well as the identity-based student groups on campus like the LB-GTQ Alliance and the Organization for Latin American students.

The inclusion these events highlights bring him joy because they highlight "differences that add total value to the community," Potter said.

Overlap between the counseling center and Multicultural Student Services occurs as well.

Potter said he makes referrals to the counseling center when students are seeking mental health services and that he recognizes the stigma surrounding



Image courtesy of Angel Kontra.

therapy in the Black community. "If students are entrusting me with those conversations, then I like to start to break those barriers down," Potter said. Multicultural Student Services and the counseling center also have a support group called "Brother's Keeper" for male students of color that meets every third Monday of the month. The group allows students to have one-on-one conversations where they can discuss their own experiences and their feelings about world events.

The work that Multicultural Student Services does and the message the program spreads is important to campus life Potter said.

Potter said he is satisfied with the work that he has done, but recognizes the need to do more to gain the progress necessary for the program.

"It's developed into stages and we're on the beginning cuff," Potter said.

The elevator doors open on the second floor of the Guerrieri Student Union and there it is in room 229: The Disability Resource Center.

The waiting area lies in the middle of the suite and three offices occupied by the graduate intern(s), Student Accessibility Specialist Jalesa Hull and Director Candace Henry branch off from there.

The Disability Resource Center provides accommodations and services to students with any kind of diagnosed disability, not just those related to mental health. The functionality of the center is to work towards the removal of academic barriers.

The center works with anything related to classroom instruction and access across the university Director Candace Henry said.

"We [kind of] provide more of that academic support, as well as that socioemotional support," Henry said.

Students seeking accommodations go through an intake process and once those accommodations are in place, academic skill building services are provided as well.

In one-on-one discussions the students share their specific academic challenges, Henry said, so things like time management or organization are worked on.

"It's not really looking at their life from a clinical standpoint, it's more practical," Henry said.

The center often works on social development and stress management to work with the functionality of student disabilities.

Henry said students who use the center have typically never had to identify themselves as having a disability because of parent and school involvement.

"This is a completely new experience, so we're working with students to develop that first level of independence as it relates to their educational experiences," Henry said.

The most rewarding experiences come from seeing students' progress and from breaking down institutional barriers.

Incoming students check in with the center daily or weekly their first semesters, but their second semesters they do not since they begin feeling empowered and know the center's support is still there when needed, she said.

"All of those opportunities make the field just so much more rewarding and impactful for us," Henry said.

WANT TO WRITE FOR GULL LIFE?
CONTACT STEPHANIE RIVERA
srivera6@gulls.salisbury.edu

Join Alpha Phi Omega to better the City of Salisbury

By Stephanie Rivera / Gull Life Editor

Alpha Phi Omega is a co-ed National Service Fraternity, collating efforts to better the community of Salisbury. The Salisbury Chapter is just one of the 375 chapters throughout college campuses nationwide, having over 500,000 members within their confines.

In addition to their fundraising efforts for the American Heart Association, the fraternity is in the process of organizing a variety of other events to support the fruition of the surrounding community. Although they are less populated when compared to other fraternities on campus, their impact spans beyond the campus, having impacts in immeasurable factions.

"Everyone is welcome in our fraternity; we're co-ed and our goal is to help and serve our community. We're not like other fraternities on campus, we put all of our efforts into servicing the community the best we can," President, Nick Sanders shared.

One of their most recent endeavors is working with a local hero, Craig Fauntz, who spends his free time going around Salisbury and cleaning up the trash that is littering the streets. Alpha Phi Omega efforts to assist Fauntz in his crusade have already yielded extraordinary results, with their combined efforts already collecting over 1000 pounds of litter and waste around the city of Salisbury.

Fauntz states that he is striving to make Salisbury one of the cleanest cities in the country; although we have a long way to go, Alpha Phi Omega is employing their efforts to push the city of Salisbury in the right direction.

Their communitywide efforts do not stop

there! The fraternity is currently working with city administrators to remove the subscription fee that Salisbury civilians have to pay to have their trash removed, a factor that has drastically increase the amount of littered waste around the city. Additionally, Alpha Phi Omega is collating with city constituents to provide meal alternatives to the 80% of children that are currently enrolled within the free and reduced lunch program in the public school system of Salisbury.

Their efforts have made strides in assisting the children and families within the city of Salisbury. The organization are current working with city officials, applying to service grants and organizing fundraisers to raise money for their community efforts.



Image courtesy of Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity.

"Our mission statement is leadership, friendship and service. We want to teach our members how to be leaders in business, or how to be more successful within their future careers." Vice President of services, Jared McClean stated on the Fraternity.

McClean ensured that Alpha Phi Omega is an community serving administration, but will also allow you to become a part of an interconnected groups of friends. If you are one of the many students feeling displaced because of the socially-distanced society we are currently living within, this fraternity will provide you

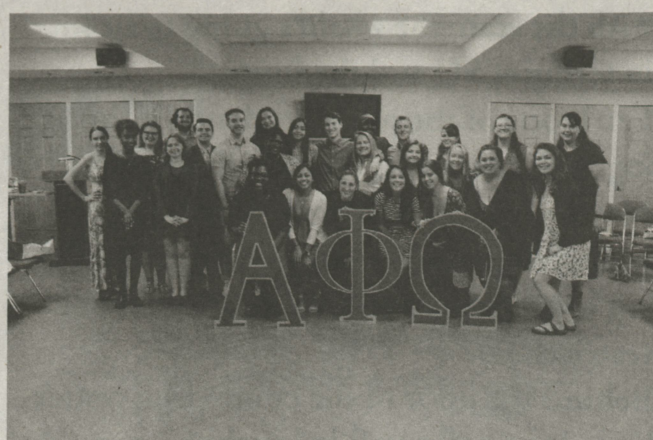


Image courtesy of Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity.

with a network of extraordinary individuals, while employing your efforts to better the lives of your constituents within the city of Salisbury.

"It is honestly refreshing to know that there is an organization on campus that has the sole goal to try and service the Salisbury community... having a Fraternity like this, especially one that is co-ed, is so important," Senior, Carli Hill commented on the organization.

If you want to help within the organization's efforts, but are worried about the time commitment, then do not fret! Any student has the ability to come and volunteer for any of Alpha Phi Omega's service events, without being committed to the organization itself. So, if you have a free day in the future and you're looking to give back to your community, volunteering through their efforts is the way to go.

If you are looking to keep tabs on their upcoming events, check out the website Involved@SU for announcements on upcoming events. If you're looking to join the organization, email nsanders2@gulls.salisbury.edu or call 301-606-2057. Be the change you want to see in your community. Alpha Phi Omega Organizational efforts are essential for the fruition of our surrounding community, and joining their efforts is just the first step to betterment of our world.

SU's latest connectivity conundrum: dating

By Olivia Ballmann / Editor-in-chief

Dating during COVID-19 comes with its own set of challenges, and as a result, many are left to question: How does dating work during a global pandemic? It's an enigma that seems to have quite the variety of answers.

In an interview with Dr. Lance Garmon, a psychology professor at Salisbury University, Garmon discussed advice and research he discovered surrounding the importance of communication. This research included sources such as [Npr.org](https://www.npr.org), [Webmd.com](https://www.webmd.com) and [Vox.com](https://www.vox.com).

"The little bit of research I've done ... I'm intrigued by how many different places online, when they talk about dating during COVID, make it very clear that you [the individual interested in dating] need to have a conversation very early on [with your partner and] you need to discuss what both of you think in terms of wearing masks [in general], wearing [a] mask in a restaurant, [whether] you're eating out together [and] at what point of the relationship do you progress to

the point where you can be close to each other in the same room without wearing a mask?"

Garmon later discussed his apprehension toward advice on online websites, such as [Npr.org](https://www.npr.org), who advise many to simply refrain from the continuation of dating people with different ideals and values specifically relating to the virus. Although Garmon does not feel this particular advice is realistic, he concurs with online resources that emphasize the importance of communication and safety, such as [Webmd.com](https://www.webmd.com).

"There are a lot of people [all previously mentioned sources] out there that are giving advice, but they're just kind of basing it on what they think off the top of their head. We don't really have a lot of research on an unprecedented situation like this. I do think there are some very very concrete ideas — some suggestions — about going slow, being willing to have several virtual conversations as you find out what the person is like and how they're viewing the same safety precautions as you are, and then you decide

whether you want to progress to face to face meetings..."

Additionally, Garmon noted dating patterns found in research that were specific to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I was surprised to see, when I was reading different advice columns, how common it was to see people going back to ex-romantic partners," Garmon continued, referencing [Vox.com](https://www.vox.com) and [Npr.org](https://www.npr.org). Garmon explained this was likely due to the bond formed in previous relationships that new relationships lack and are trickier to form during the pandemic due to limited accessibility of other people. Some are even finding their own social groups particularly saturated because of the pandemic, making it difficult to find and meet new people.

Sophomore Casia Veeck has noticed significant changes when meeting people in general.

"It's definitely difficult because I'm an outgoing person, I love to meet new people ... but now I'm just scared to do that. I don't want to introduce myself too all these new people who may have COVID

Continued on page 11

SU's latest connectivity conundrum: dating continued... from page 10

or spread the pandemic," Veeck said. When dating, Veeck attempted to adjust her dating strategies using online dating apps; however, she felt the apps were often unsuccessful.

"Tinder and bumble — they're not really helpful at all. Most people aren't really looking for relationships, just casual hookups which I'm not into," Veeck stated.

Veeck also felt the online dating apps made it difficult to determine how trustworthy someone was, especially considering the risks of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Because usually when you date someone, you find out things after you start dating them and after you start talking, it's hard to find out something concrete ... before you even meet them."

Although online dating apps may prove to be difficult, graduate student Kacie Cassar, conducted research in 2018, recognizing social media's impact in forming relationships which proved to be successful.

"We're learning that people were using social media to create these foundations and connection which wasn't their intended purpose, like direct messages. My research focuses on basically sliding into DMs. We found that mostly — almost everyone knows and understands the concept, but not everyone uses it. But for those that do use it, they kind of get what they're looking for out of it."

Cassar continued to explain that the time spent communicating on social media via DMs played an important role in the type of relationship achieved.

"Something we talked about in my paper was social penetration theory ... People who spend very few days talking usually have hook ups and people who spend weeks or months talking usually have relationship types."

Additionally, Cassar found additional benefits that set direct messaging apart from online dating.

"It ['DMing'] takes away the pressure of a dating app ... It's just a different type of environment..."

Cassar also addressed the tendency for people to be more "direct" on social media, allowing people to sense what another person is looking for in terms of a relationship.

"...People are a lot more bold on social media than they are in person," Cassar added, noting "confidence" as another benefit to using social media.

Despite the numerous benefits and success rates found in her research, Cassar discovered DMing was not particularly popular with everyone.

"At the time, we were a little surprised that not more people were using it than we thought ... but surprisingly, for those who took our survey, only half of them had been using it. I can't say there's any downfalls to it. Maybe a little embarrass-

ment if it doesn't go your way, but that's quick/easy — if you delete it, it's like it never happened."

Although DMing may not have been too popular in 2018, Cassar theorizes the pandemic will allow DMing to play a greater role in seeking relationships. "This could be a new way to do it [dating,] especially in a COVID era."

Cassar feels utilizing social media as a resource would be beneficial to many seeking relationships during the pandemic. "...You have the internet at your fingertips. This is your way to connect with people ... You can see who you have these connections with [on social media] so you're not talking to a stranger ... It kind of gives you a jumping off point already." While looking for a potential partner amidst a worldwide pandemic is difficult, dating while in a current relationship comes with its own set of challenges. Junior Jillian Crosby began dating prior to the pandemic, adjusting to multiple changes as the coronavirus surged the



Mark Zimmerman and Amelia McKahan outside Guerrier Commons. (Image courtesy of Brad Boardman.)

nation.

"Before, we could go out and do a lot together and not be worried. Obviously, the masks in public was just kind of weird. I can't see her face or give her a kiss whenever I want," Crosby reflected. "We had to put off a lot of plans we wanted to make," Crosby added.

Although this was an adjustment, Crosby and her girlfriend found innovative ways to make dating during the pandemic spontaneous.

"We got to try a lot of cooking in the house. We had a lot of movie marathons. We did a lot of crafts together. Those were some fun things we got to do, and I honestly think it brought us together a little closer because we're doing more intimate things with each other."

Crosby continued, explaining the importance creativity played in making dating exciting during COVID-19.

"We actually had our one year during COVID. It was difficult, but we had to find really fun alternatives — instead of going out to a nice dinner, or going to do a really fun activity or something big and extravagant. We made our own big and extravagant thing for ourselves being at home. It was really fun."

These adjustments were a significant

change in Crosby's life; however, Crosby's relationship faced a greater challenge when her girlfriend got COVID. As a result, the couple were apart for a month. "I didn't get to see her [for] a month and she missed my birthday, so that was really sad..."

"I live by myself, so that was a pretty big adjustment, especially when she got sick and I was alone a lot. It definitely has shown me how much I value our relationship and how important it is to me. So, when we did finally get to see each other again, it was really exciting and fun, and you really enjoy every moment a little bit more. When something traumatic or big happens, it does bring you a together a little bit more because you went through it together and you know at the end of the day you don't want to lose that other person."

Although this was a moment of adversity for the couple, Crosby believes it made them stronger, strengthening their communication skills.

"Especially when she found out that she had COVID, we had to be really honest and open to each other ... as much as we wanted to see each other and be with each other she had to tell me the truth about when she was exposed ... Be honest and play it safe despite all these things that we want to do. I think it made our communication a lot better and just figuring out what's important in the moment."

Dating during COVID-19 is certainly no easy feat regardless of your dating status; however, if anything can be learned, it's the importance of communication during a time of uncertainty. As Crosby stated, "This is a rule of thumb all the time, but always tell the truth and make sure that you're just always communicating. Even if the thought crosses your mind like, 'Do you think that he/she should know this?' Then, yes, they should."

The sources mentioned in this article can be found below:

Coronavirus FAQs: What Are The New Dating Rules? And What About Hooking Up?

<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/09/11/911991077/coronavirus-faqs-what-are-the-new-dating-rules-and-what-about-hooking-up>

Love, delayed

<https://www.vox.com/the-high-light/21550996/dating-love-coronavirus-covid-19-singles-relationships>

Dating During the Pandemic: Online and Restless

<https://www.webmd.com/lung/news/20201022/dating-during-the-pandemic-online-and-restless>

Sports

Salisbury basketball traversing a mid-pandemic season

By Nick Lewis / Sports Editor

Basketball has a different look in Maggs Physical Activities Center this year. Salisbury University has implemented several new guidelines for the 2020-21 basketball season hoping to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

These measures appear to be working. While both the men's and women's squads have seen their schedules adjusted mid-season, they are nearing the halfway mark on the year with no stoppages of play.

Dr. Gerry DiBartolo, Director of Athletics and Campus Recreation at SU, said he is impressed by how the athletics department and the entire campus have navigated the pandemic.

"Our student-athletes, our coaching staffs and our support staffs have done an outstanding job," DiBartolo said.

"I am really proud of all the work that people throughout the campus have done to make this one of the universities that says, 'We are going to find a way to get it done.'"

The men's basketball team has completed five of its eight scheduled games, while the women's team has completed three of its nine remaining contests.

There are some new restrictions in place for games played inside Maggs Gymnasium.

For these competitions, fans are not allowed to attend the game in person. Instead, they can watch home games via live streams provided by the Sea Gull Sports Network.

This is a big change for some student-athletes.

Senior guard Johnny Fierstein said he misses the fans he would see in Maggs on game day.

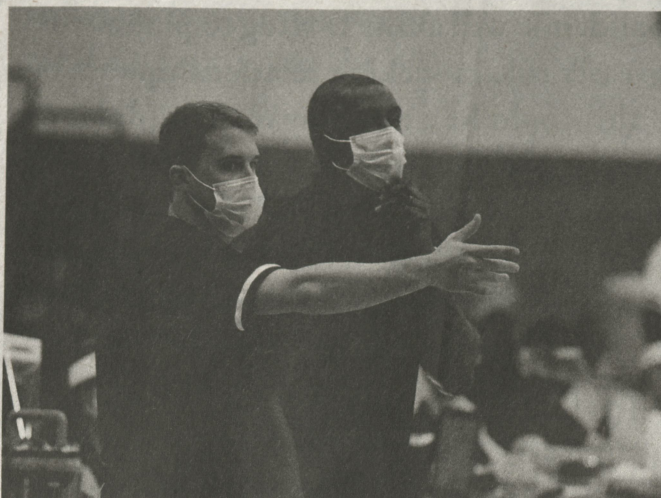


Image courtesy of SU Sports Information.

"I was used to recognizing the faces in the crowd, looking out and seeing friends," Fierstein said. "With the gym completely empty, the only sounds you really hear are the basketball and the music ... you can pretty much hear everything that everybody is saying."

Others said they enjoyed the familiarity of playing in their home gym, even without the fans.

Junior forward Kaylee Otlowski said playing without fans is different, but her team helps provide the missing noise. "Honestly, it's not that bad," Otlowski said. "I miss the fans, I miss my mom and grandmother being in the stands, but our team creates that energy that we need."

There are other protocols that the basketball teams have had to adjust to as well. DiBartolo said that since the basketball teams are competing unmasked, they are required to be tested three times per week on nonconsecutive days.

Players and staff are also required to remain masked at all practices, in the locker rooms and at all times on gamedays other than warmups and when they are on the court.

During the game, the players on the sideline are masked and seated six feet apart to accommodate social distancing.

Anyone working the scorer's table is

WANT TO WRITE
FOR SPORTS?
CONTACT NICK
LEWIS
nlewis4@gulls.salis-
bury.edu

required to wear both a mask and a face shield throughout the event. There are also guidelines in place for away games. Players must be masked while on the buses and must eat outside of the bus when stopping for food. Most of the opponents for the two teams are also playing with empty gyms. Fierstein said this has been a significant change for him as well.

"There is no away crowd, nobody getting into you or staring chants during free throws to throw you off," Fierstein said. "It's almost like a preseason scrimmage all the time."

Despite the new rules in place, the players are thankful for the chance to take the floor.

Otlowski said she would happily follow the rules for as long as it takes if it means she gets to continue playing.

"I will wake up at 7:45 a.m. and swab my nose to get COVID tested ... if that is what it takes for me to have a game tomorrow, then I'll do it," Otlowski said. With just a handful of weeks remaining in the winter season, SU still plans to have a joined fall and spring season that goes through the rest of the Spring 2021 Semester.

DiBartolo said the school's success in handling the winter season gives him hope in giving fall and spring teams a chance to compete this semester.

"We are hopeful that, if we can keep those numbers down, we should be able to get through without many interruptions for those fall and spring teams," DiBartolo said.

"If our student-athletes continue to follow the protocols and stay safe ... [then] I think we've seen over the last couple of weeks that we can play some games."

high school experience.

Oates attended Glenelg Country School and played on the basketball team during his freshman and sophomore seasons. After a somewhat disappointing sophomore campaign, Oates decided he needed a change of scenery.

Oates made the decision to transfer to Atholton, a public school in Howard County. Oates said the main reason he chose to join the Raiders was to be around his family.

Oates's brother, Justin, was a senior for the Raiders when Jordan arrived.

"One of the main reasons I went [to Atholton] was because my brother was there," Oates said. "I got to play with him ... that was a real fun year."

"My hard work finally paid off"

Justin Oates graduated the following

Continued on page 13

The emergence of Jordan Oates for SU basketball continued... from page 12

season along with nine other seniors, Jordan Oates became the focal point of the team.

During his senior campaign, Oates averaged 17.7 points-per-game and brought down 14.2 rebounds-per-game. He helped Atholton reach its first region championship since 2009.

Oates also set program records for total rebounds and threes in a season.

This individual excellence won Oates the Howard County boys basketball Player of the Year award. He is the first player from Atholton to earn the distinction since Tyrone Allmond in 1996. Oates said the news was unexpected.

It came by way of a phone call.

"I was actually at the eye doctor, so I was really caught off guard," Oates said. "But it felt like all my hard work finally paid off and I was really excited."

Flying with the Flock

Oates's second game donning the maroon and gold did not go as smoothly as his debut.

In the contest against St. Mary's,

neither side shot particularly well from the floor. The Seahawks shot roughly 38 percent from the floor, while the Gulls converted roughly 35 percent of their shots.

Toward the end of the contest, Salisbury was clinging to a one-point lead with the Seahawks surging back into the game. Williams elected to call a timeout and discuss the closing minutes of the game with the team. Rather than design a play, he simply gave a message to his players. "I called the timeout and drew nothing



Image courtesy of SU Sports Information.

on the board," Williams said. "I told the guys that our culture is what is going to win us this game."

This new culture of defense and rebounding helped Salisbury survive a late surge from the Seahawks.

With under 30 seconds remaining in the game, Oates put-back a Fierstein miss to grow the Sea Gulls lead to three and secure the victory.

Williams said he was impressed with the humility that Oates showed in the closing minute of the game.

"He gets the tip-in over two guys," Williams said, "and we call timeout and he's yelling in the timeout just like me to calm down, telling [the guys] we hadn't won yet."

Oates finished with 11 points and 17 rebounds in the win.

Fierstein said the freshman has a bright future as a Sea Gull.

"He's a character-first kid ... he's not selfish and he's a lot of fun to play with," Fierstein said. "I know my assist numbers have been going up and he's the reason I'm getting a lot of them."

No fans? No problem: A look inside SGSN

By Brandon Stark / Staff Writer

COVID-19 has changed the way the world functions for nearly the last year. Few industries have been impacted as heavily as sports.

The Salisbury men's and women's basketball teams were given the green light to return to play in a condensed season this year. To host competitions this winter, the basketball teams are playing in an empty Maggs Gymnasium.

The Sea Gull Sports Network, first launched in 2011, provides a medium for fans to watch not only the Sea Gulls men's and women's basketball teams, but all of the varsity sports at home events. Will DeBoer is the Executive Producer of SGSN and the Assistant Sports Information Director. DeBoer's main responsibilities for SGSN include overseeing and training the staff, scheduling, working on the graphics, creating highlight videos and behind the scenes operations for the livestreams.

Before coming to Salisbury this year, DeBoer worked as the radio broadcaster for the Delmarva Shorebirds for the past four years. He also covered the Division I University of Maryland-Eastern Shore Basketball teams.

DeBoer hopes he will be able to pass along his years of knowledge and experience in broadcasting to the current SGSN crew.

"I see myself as the sort of person who can help anyone who is interested in pursuing sports

broadcast or broadcast production," DeBoer said.

DeBoer stressed the importance of making the viewing experience the best possible for the viewers since that is the only way fans can watch the games for now.

DeBoer said he hopes to add to the legacy the Sea Gull Sports Network has produced.

"My goal is to continue SGSN's reputation as the top streaming networks in not just Division III, but all of college sports," DeBoer said. "We have a really good program here and quite a few alumni before I arrived here who are working in sports media or just media in general, they got their start working here at SGSN."

Cyrill Parham, the Sports Information Director at Salisbury, currently oversees SGSN. With DeBoer taking over the reins, Cyrill is hopeful that the viewers will appreciate DeBoer's contributions towards the platform.

"[Will] has a very strong broadcasting

background, so he has done a great job with making SGSN his own," Parham said. "We're trying to do some different things this semester and hopefully while we're doing these new things, especially with no crowds, people will enjoy what we have to offer."

Parham explained that the SGSN has adapted to the changes necessary to cover events this season and taken precautions to ensure their staff's safety, including wearing masks, social distancing and taking bi-weekly COVID-19 tests.

"We want to make sure everybody is healthy, everybody is going to be as safe as possible," Parham said. "[We want] to make sure that nobody catches COVID-19... we're trying to keep people as safe and as cognizant of the current environment we're in as possible."

Parham said it can take about five workers to run broadcasts for sports that play outside of Sea Gull Stadium, such as basketball, volleyball, soccer or baseball.

In contrast, the games held in Sea Gull

Stadium, like football, lacrosse and field hockey, requires 10 to 12 workers to run the broadcast.

Malcolm Gibson is a broadcaster for the SGSN and the current color commentator for the men's and women's basketball teams. Gibson has also covered lacrosse and softball for SGSN.

"The biggest thing that I like about it is [that] they treat us like professionals," Gibson said. "We have a responsibility to go out there and put on a good product every time we're out there."

SGSN
Sea Gull Sports Network

Image courtesy of SU sports information.

UMD assistant named Salisbury head men's soccer coach

By Nick Lewis / Sports Editor

There is a new face at the top of the Salisbury University men's soccer program. SU Director of Athletics and Campus Recreation Dr. Gerry DiBartolo announced on Monday that Scott Buete would become the next head coach for the men's soccer team.

Buete succeeds Alex Hargrove, who announced he would be stepping down last spring, on March 14.

"I'm proud to welcome [Buete] to Salisbury," DiBartolo said. "He has an established record of being an outstanding recruiter and [I] know he will attract outstanding student-athletes to Salisbury University."

Buete has served as the assistant coach at the University of Maryland for the past seven seasons, including a 2018 run that saw the Terrapins claim the 2018 National Championship. The team won three Big Ten Tournament Championships and appeared in six NCAA tournaments during his time with the team.

"I am absolutely thrilled to join the Sea Gull family as the head men's soccer



Scott Buete huddles up with players from the UMD men's soccer team. (Image courtesy of SU Sports Information)

coach," Buete said. "Salisbury University and the entire athletics community has a strong winning tradition and I can't wait to be a part of it. Having grown up in Maryland, I will take great pride in wearing the Salisbury crest and donning the maroon and gold."

Buete also starred as a defender for UMD during his playing days. As a two-time National Soccer Coaches Association of

America All-American, he helped anchor the Terps backline from 2001-2003.

Buete was drafted by the Chicago Fire in the 2004 MLS SuperDraft and also played for the Atlanta Silverbacks, Charleston Battery and Tampa Bay Rowdies of the United Soccer League.

Staff Credit

Olivia Ballmann: Editor-in-Chief
oballmann1@gulls.salisbury.edu

Stephanie Rivera: Gull Life editor
srivera6@gulls.salisbury.edu

Bradley Boardman: Photo editor
bboardman1@gulls.salisbury.edu

Jakob Todd: News editor
jtodd7@gulls.salisbury.edu

Megan Campbell: Ad manager
mcampbell16@gulls.salisbury.edu

Jacob Beaver: Editorial editor
jbeaver2@gulls.salisbury.edu

Kirsten Stillwell: Copy editor
kstillwell@gulls.salisbury.edu

Michael Cotterino: Layout & Graphics editor
mcotterino1@gulls.salisbury.edu

Nick Lewis: Sports editor
nlewis6@gulls.salisbury.edu